



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Taggart, et al.

Examiner: Soubra, I.

Serial No.: 09/354,478

Art Unit: 1744

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Docket No.: STEU-2661

Title: **APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING CONTAINER INTERIOR  
STERILIZATION IN AN ASEPTIC PROCESSING APPARATUS**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington D.C. 20231

**RECEIVED**  
SEP 14 2001  
TC 1700

**REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION**

Sir:

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Amended) Apparatus comprising:

a first supply source of sterile air;

a supply source of sterilant;

an atomizing system producing an atomized sterilant from the mixing of the  
sterile air from the first supply source of sterile air with the sterilant;

a second supply source of a hot sterile air for providing the hot sterile air to the  
atomized sterilant;

a probe extending into an interior of a container for applying the atomized

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